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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/103,398	06/24/1998	AKIRA SENDA	35.C12806	2952

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EXAMINER	
WHIPKEY, JASON T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2612	5

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/103,398	SENDA, AKIRA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason T. Whipkey	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 June 1998* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

✓1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

✓2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- ✓ "... for exchanges of many information ..." is unclear (page 3, line 5)
- ✓ "... at on of power ..." is unclear (used repeatedly throughout specification and claims)
- ✓ "If the camera unit 2, 3 and the lens unit ..." is unclear (page 8, lines 13, 15, 18, and 19)
- ✓ " ... the lens unit 1 will become up simultaneously accordingly" is unclear (page 8, line 16)
- ✓ " ... may be displayed by on of respective display lamps" is unclear (page 13, line 10)

Appropriate correction is required.

✓3. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. *If the patent is in the nature of an*

improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:
(1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
(2) if an article, its method of making;
(3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
(4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
(5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

The examiner suggests deleting the first sentence.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanno et al.

Regarding claims 1, 6, and 16, Kanno discloses a lens barrel 1 connected to a camera 101.

The focusing control system of the lens includes focus mode switch 113 (located on the lens barrel 1) and a CPU 110 (located in the lens barrel 1).

The lens barrel operates in three modes: manual focusing, auto-focusing, and MF priority AF mode (column 5, lines 49-54). Using the last two modes, focusing is controlled or partially controlled by focus control circuit 109, located in the camera body.

Based on the setting of focus mode switch 113 and the presence of a signal from focus control circuit 109, CPU 110 sets the mode of operation of the focusing system. If no communication from the camera unit is detected — for example, when the lens is connected to a camera body having no focus control circuit — the camera is automatically set into manual focusing mode, (column 9, lines 38-57) regardless of whether focus mode switch 113 is set to auto-focus.

Regarding claims 2, 4, 7, 9, and 18, if the user has selected auto-focus mode using focus mode switch 113 and an auto-focus signal is present from focus control circuit 109, then the lens will be controlled by focus control circuit 109. Otherwise, it will be controlled as described above. Consequently, the presence or absence of the signal from focus control circuit 109 determines the mode with which the lens barrel will operate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3, 8, 12-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. in view of Arai et al.

Regarding claims 3, 8, and 17, Kanno discloses a lens barrel 1 connected to a camera 101.

The focusing control system of the lens includes focus mode switch 113 (located on the lens barrel 1) and a CPU 110 (located in the lens barrel 1).

The lens barrel operates in three modes: manual focusing, auto-focusing, and MF priority AF mode (column 5, lines 49-54). Using the last two modes, focusing is controlled or partially controlled by focus control circuit 109, located in the camera body.

Based on the setting of focus mode switch 113 and the presence of a signal from focus control circuit 109, CPU 110 sets the mode of operation of the focusing system. If no communication from the camera unit is detected — for example, when the lens is connected to a camera body having no focus control circuit — the camera is automatically set into manual focusing mode, (column 9, lines 38-57) regardless of whether focus mode switch 113 is set to auto-focus.

Kanno is silent with regard to using a predetermined time period without communication as a basis for switching into manually focused mode.

Arai discloses an image pickup apparatus with a lens unit LU detachable from a camera main body unit CU. Communication occurs between data transmission/reception units 12 and 32, on the lens and camera sides, respectively. A stable electrical connection must be present at connector 39 for a predetermined amount of time before operation can proceed (column 7, lines 51-61). The advantage of using Arai's preset time period with Kanno's lens and camera system is that it allows the system to make a number of attempts to communicate before abandoning all communication. Therefore, it would be obvious to have Kanno's lens have a predetermined time period measured before aborting communication attempts.

Claim 12 may be treated as described above. However, Kanno is silent with regard to using serial communication to transmit digital data between the camera and lens.

Arai's system includes digital communication between the CU and LU via a data transmission line 39 (column 8, lines 23-29). The advantage of using Arai's serial communication method with Kanno's lens and camera system is that it allows data to be transferred more accurately between the two parts. Therefore, it would be obvious to have Kanno's camera and lens communicate serially.

Claims 13, 14, and 15 may be treated like claim 3.

8. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. in view of Nakano.

Kanno discloses a lens barrel 1 connected to a camera 101.

The focusing control system of the lens includes focus mode switch 113 (located on the lens barrel 1) and a CPU 110 (located in the lens barrel 1).

The lens barrel operates in three modes: manual focusing, auto-focusing, and MF priority AF mode (column 5, lines 49-54). Using the last two modes, focusing is controlled or partially controlled by focus control circuit 109, located in the camera body.

Based on the setting of focus mode switch 113 and the presence of a signal from focus control circuit 109, CPU 110 sets the mode of operation of the focusing system. If no communication from the camera unit is detected — for example, when the lens is connected to a camera body having no focus control circuit — the camera is automatically set into manual focusing mode, (column 9, lines 38-57) regardless of whether focus mode switch 113 is set to auto-focus.

Kanno is silent with regard to having a display indicator on the camera for indicating the mode set by the setting circuit.

Nakano discloses a camera and lens system 21 with an indicator 23 for indicating the operational modes of the camera. For example, the user is informed of a manual focus condition when "MF" appears on indicator 23 and an auto-focus condition when "MF" does not appear (column 8, lines 10-15). The advantage of using a display is that it informs the user that action on his part may be necessary. Therefore, it would be obvious to have Kanno's lens and camera system have a display.

9. Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. in view of Tamiguchi et al.

Regarding both claims, Kanno discloses a lens barrel 1 connected to a camera 101.

The focusing control system of the lens includes focus mode switch 113 (located on the lens barrel 1) and a CPU 110 (located in the lens barrel 1).

The lens barrel operates in three modes: manual focusing, auto-focusing, and MF priority AF mode (column 5, lines 49-54). Using the last two modes, focusing is controlled or partially controlled by focus control circuit 109, located in the camera body.

Based on the setting of focus mode switch 113 and the presence of a signal from focus control circuit 109, CPU 110 sets the mode of operation of the focusing system. If no communication from the camera unit is detected — for example, when the lens is connected to a camera body having no focus control circuit — the camera is automatically set into manual focusing mode, (column 9, lines 38-57) regardless of whether focus mode switch 113 is set to auto-focus.

Kanno is silent with regard to having a display indicator on the lens for indicating the mode set by the setting circuit.

Tamiguchi discloses a camera BD with a lens LE. The lens has a displaying portion 28 on it. The display is used to display the operating mode of the lens (column 5, lines 44-51). The advantage of placing a display on a lens as opposed to a camera is that it simplifies communication with the camera, because display data does not need to

be transmitted between the two. Therefore, it would be obvious to have Kanno's lens and camera system have a display on the lens.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason T. Whipkey, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1819. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber, can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for both regular communication and After Final communication.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office, whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to (703) 872-9314 for either formal or informal communications intended for entry. (For informal or draft communications, please label "**PROPOSED**" or "**DRAFT**".)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the sixth floor receptionist of Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive in Arlington, Virginia.

JTW

JTW
February 14, 2002

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